



Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1960.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,
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Public Health Inspector.....Mr. J.C. Bowen, M.A.P.H.I.
Inspector of Meat and Other Food.



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Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1960

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District during the year 1960.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/61(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....1673 acres.

The Urban District of Llanwrtyd Wells forms part of the County of Brecon and is situated in the northern part of the County. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. The Urban District is a well known holiday resort where advantage is taken of the medicinal springs in the locality.

Population.

Census 1931.....742.
Census 1951.....560.
Estimated at Midsummer 1960.....490.

Population estimated during the last 10 years.

1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960.

562. 552. 546. 530. 520. 520. 510. 500. 490. 490.

As will be seen from the above, the population in the district is slowly but surely dropping.

Number of inhabited houses.....196. This gives an average number of 2.5 persons per house.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
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Legitimate	1.	6.	7.	
Illegitimate	0.	0.	0.	
	1.	6.	7.	14.2

Corrected birthrate.....17.1

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 17.1. The district rate was therefore the same as the national average but as will be seen, was much higher than the deathrate.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
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	8.	4.	12.	24.4
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The corrected deathrate was 15.8

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.5. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average but satisfactorily lower than the birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Live & still births.</u>
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	0.	0.	0.	0.
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The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 19.7 The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Illegitimacy. There were no illegitimate births registered during the year.

Total Live and still births. For the year, this number was seven.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. One such death occurred in the district during the year, a female, giving a rate per 1000 live births of 142.8, whereas the national average was 21.7. This child died before it reached the age of one week.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths occurred which could be attributed to childbirth. This is a very satisfactory feature.

Maternal Mortality Rate......0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.
Respiratory Tuberculosis.....Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Four.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...8. Females...4.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.....	0.....
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	1.....
Other malignant neoplasms.....	1.....	1.....
Coronary disease.....	1.....	1.....
Other heart disease.....	1.....	0.....
Pneumonia.....	1.....	0.....
Other diseases, respiratory system.....	1.....	0.....
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.....	0.....
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	1.....	1.....
The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.		

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

There were no changes in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. J.C. Bowen, the Public Health Inspector for the adjoining Rural District of Builth, continued to act as your Inspector on a part time basis.

There are no Committees, as such, dealing with health matters. The full Council deal with all Council affairs.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea and Aberystwyth. The laboratory of the Public Analyst for the County of Carmarthen was available for water samples whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen.

Nursing Facilities etc. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the local hospital at Builth Wells.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of smallpox cases arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Hereford Fever Hospital is also able to take cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. The methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. During the year this was carried out on one house, at the request of the occupant; following a death by cancer. A caravan was also fumigated following a suspected case of poliomyelitis.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are administered by the Council as agent for the Builth and District Water Board. During the year good progress was made on stage 2 of the new major scheme which includes the relaying of mains throughout Llanwrtyd Wells and the provision of treatment works and reservoir.

As each section of new main was installed domestic connections were transferred from the existing to the new mains. Before each new section of main was brought into use it was sterilised and samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Number of inspections made.....43.
 Number of samples taken from town supply.....4.
 All these were reported as unsatisfactory.
 Number of samples taken following sterilisation of new main.....9.

Water for pressure testing of new mains was taken from the River Cleddan. Before this took place samples were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis. The mains were chlorinated to 50 p.p.m. and flushed out on completion.

The water during the year was reasonably adequate in quantity but still receives no treatment and the new supply from the district scheme will be of great advantage.

Properties served from public water mains.

Number of properties served direct to house.....169.
 Population thus served.....444.
 Number of properties served by standpipes.....3.
 Number of population thus served.....3.
 Number of houses on private supply.....24.
 Number of persons so served.....43.

Drainage and Sewerage. The drainage of the district and the excellent sewage disposal works continued to function satisfactorily during the year. The boundary fence to the disposal works was repaired during the year.

Three properties which could not be connected to the sewer used septic tank drainage.

Number of inspections made.....9.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection and disposal of house refuse. This is collected twice weekly by a Contractor in the district and disposed of by tipping. It was found necessary to display notices regarding the provision of satisfactory dustbins.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. All details relating to inspections, notices served, visits and samples taken in the whole of the report give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....7.
 Number of complaints investigated.....7.
 Number of premises inspected.....7.
 Number of premises revisited.....7.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....3.
 Number of abatement notices served.....0.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.No common lodging houses exist in the district.

Shops.
Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....15.
Number of notices served.....0.

Licensed Premises.
Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....6.
Number of notices served(informal).....1.

Camping Sites. There are no recognised camping sites in the district.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be verminous during the year.

Rodent Control.This work is performed by a Council Workman.

Number of premises inspected.....41.
Number of inspections and re-visits.....106.
Number found infested.....34.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....25.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....9.

The sewers were also treated during March of the year.Ten per cent of manholes were baited and there were no bait takes at any of the manholes..

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken during the year.

Tents,Vans and Sheds.
Number of visits.....5.
Number of notices.....0.

Section 4.Housing.Two private houses were under construction during the year.

Housing Consolidated Regulations,1925,Article 31.At the request of the Welsh Board of Health,details of action under these regulations are reintroduced.No demolition or closing orders were issued during the year.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
In connection with clean food no educational activity occurred during the year.The number of food premises,by type,in the district were: 6 Licensed Premises, 2 Bakehouses, 3 Butchers, 1 Cafe and 7 others carrying on a "mixed" business.

Food & Drugs Act,1955,Section 16.The premises registered under this section were 6 ice cream premises and 3 butchers.

Milk.Since the coming into operation of the Milk & Dairies Act,1944, The Council is left with the registration and supervision of milk distributors.The results of samples taken during the year are shown below.

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies.....4.
Number of samples taken during the year.....3.
Number of samples reported as satisfactory.....3.
Number of samples reported as unsatisfactory.....0.

These samples were also examined for presence of tuberculosis and abortus and found negative.

Meat.There is at present no slaughterhouse in the district and meat is supplied from the slaughterhouses at Builth Wells and Brecon. In accordance with the Slaughterhouse Act,1958,the Council considered slaughtering facilities within their district.One application was received to build a small private slaughterhouse.Planning approval and Ministry approval was granted.Work on the building of this had not commenced at the end of the year,

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....8.
Number of notices served.....0.

Ice Cream.The producer retailer in the district has now discontinued the manufacture of ice cream.

Number of producer retailers.....0.
Number of retailers only.....6.
The samples taken were two and the results were:-
Category 1.....1.
Category 2.....1.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections.....9.

Fried Fish Shops.There was no fried fish shop in the district during the year.

Food Condemned. Twelve pounds of corn beef and 20 tins of various other foods were condemned during the year.

Public Swimming Pool.Consideration was given by the Council to the suggestion of joining with other authorities in the construction of a public swimming bath at Builth Wells.No definite decision had been taken at the end of the year.

Cemetery.A new cemetery to provide for the needs of the urban district and also for the adjoining parish of Llanwrtyd Without was proceeded with during the year.
A proposed plan was sent to the Secretary of State for the purpose of consecration of a portion in pursuance of the Burial Act,1960

Section 6.Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified during the year:-

Acute pneumonia.....1 case.

This case was nursed at home.No death was caused by infectious disease during the year.

Venereal Disease.The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital,Swansea,for the treatment of these cases.The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....9.
Number of cases entered during the year.....0.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....0.
Number of cases removed as left district.....0.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....9.
Contacts of cases are now offered prophylactic treatment by B.C.C.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:

1951.	1952.	1853.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
0.	1.	0.	4.	2.	3.	0.	2.	2.	0.

Diphtheria Immunisation.As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946,the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics,at the schools during the school medical inspections,and also by the general practitioners.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall.The object of the immunisation campaign, however,remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday.It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

APPENDIX

Factories Acts,1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LLANWRTYD WELLS IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i.Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii.Factories not included in (i)in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	6	-	-
iii.Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	4	6	-	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a)Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

